

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Patrick Paul Nunes.

Information: Bureau staff contacted Applicant to confirm information contained in his application materials. In the course of doing that, staff asked Applicant about his not providing information in the "Family Information" section of the supplemental application about any brothers in-law, while in his third essay answer on the application, regarding appreciation for California's diverse demographics and geography, Applicant mentioned that he has two sisters who are married. Applicant stated that he did not realize he was supposed to provide information about his brothers in-law, but would file an amendment to disclose information about them right away. Later the same day, Applicant submitted an amendment to his supplemental application to provide information about his brothers in-law. At the same time, he submitted an amendment to disclose that his mother "is a member in good standing of Montana's Blackfoot Tribe (1/8 hereditary)" and that he "only referenced [his] primary 'blood quantum level' ethnicity, which is Hispanic.".

Staff contacted Amy Barr, the author of one of Applicant's letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Ms. Barr reported that she had been Mr. Nunes' supervisor when he was working for the Sacramento County Office of Education. This work was performed during evenings, on weekends, and during the summer. The work involved a statewide assessment tool called the Golden State Examination. The team that worked on the examination traveled throughout California meeting with various teacher groups. Mr. Nunes' areas of expertise were government, economics, and history. Ms. Barr stated that Mr. Nunes demonstrated great impartiality. An example of this impartiality was when Mr. Nunes had to establish a criterion for grading essays. Mr. Nunes was able to make a distinction between facts and opinions. He demonstrated this by knowing the subject matter, what would be acceptable, what could be discussed, and how an essay could be constructed without restricting freedom of expression. He was able to establish a grading scale that allowed readers to grade on facts versus opinions. Ms. Barr also mentioned Mr. Nunes' work on a report about the effects of problem economics on high school economics instruction for the U.S. Department of Education..

Staff also spoke with Matt Cockerton, the author of another of applicant's letters of recommendation. Mr. Cockerton stated that he is currently Mr. Nunes supervisor at Kelseyville High School. Mr. Cockerton described Mr. Nunes as a good person, very personable, and

“passionate about the cause.” He reported that Mr. Nunes wrote an in-depth, 20-page research paper entitled “Continuing Legacy: Reapportionment 1982.” He stated that Mr. Nunes is the best Social Science teacher he has at the school, although Mr. Nunes is currently on a one-year sabbatical. Mr. Cockerton stated that he believes Mr. Nunes is able to be impartial. As an example, he cited Mr. Nunes’ style in teaching the high school Government class. Mr. Nunes presents both sides of any issue, thus challenging students to reach their own conclusions. He noted that this approach sometimes leaves students frustrated because “there is no right answer.”

Recommendation: None.

Name and title of person submitting response: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations.

Report Date: August 23, 2010.